

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

VANESSA VENCE-SMALL,
Defendant.

No. 3:18-cr-00031 (JAM)

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR SENTENCE REDUCTION

Vanessa Vence-Small is a prisoner of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (“BOP”) at the FCC Hazelton Secure Female Facility in West Virginia. She is 52 years old and suffers from a number of medical conditions, including a compromised immune system because of a splenectomy as well as type 2 diabetes mellitus and hypertension. In light of her vulnerability to the coronavirus (“COVID-19”), she moves under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A) for a reduction of her remaining term of imprisonment to a term of home confinement.

I have previously denied her motions. On April 20, 2020, I ruled that Vence-Small had failed to exhaust the procedures that the statute requires prior to her filing of the motion. *See United States v. Vence-Small*, --- F. Supp. 3d. ----, 2020 WL 1921590 (D. Conn. 2020). On May 7, 2020, I ruled that Vence-Small had not established “extraordinary and compelling reasons” for her release because she had not reliably shown any evidence of COVID-19 infections among staff or inmates at FCC Hazelton where she is housed. *See United States v. Vence-Small*, 2020 WL 2214226 (D. Conn. 2020). I stated that “I would be prepared to grant Vence-Small’s motion for release to home confinement at such time—if ever—that there is reliable evidence of any COVID-19 infections at the prison facility where Vence-Small is located.” *Id.* at *4.

Vence-Small has now renewed her motion on the basis of a newspaper report about a COVID-19 infection of a staff member at FCC Hazelton. Doc. #102. The Government has confirmed the fact of the infection, stating that the staff member worked one shift on May 16, 2020, in the control room at the Secure Female Facility at FCC Hazelton. Doc. #103. In light of my prior ruling, I will now grant Vence-Small's motion for sentence reduction and release subject to the conditions stated below.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the motion of defendant Vanessa Vence-Small for a reduction in sentence (Doc. #102) is GRANTED. Vence-Small's sentence is reduced to a term of time served as of May 22, 2020, on which date the Federal Bureau of Prisons shall RELEASE defendant Vanessa Vence-Small from BOP custody to travel directly to the home of her adult daughter in Windsor, New York, and to commence her three-year term of supervised release.

The Court amends Vence-Small's conditions of supervised release to provide that Vence-Small shall be on home detention for the first six months of her release until November 22, 2020. She will be subject to electronic monitoring using SmartLink technology, radio frequency, or such other technology chosen by the U.S. Probation Office. Counsel for Vence-Small shall promptly coordinate with the U.S. Probation Office in the District of Connecticut and in New York.

During the first 14 days of her release, Vence-Small shall quarantine herself in her daughter's home in a separate room without entering the space of other household members except as strictly necessary to use bathroom or other common facilities. Until November 22, 2020, Vence-Small shall remain on the property of her daughter's home except that she may leave only for purposes of obtaining a COVID-19 test, obtaining emergency medical care, or for

any other reason approved in advance by motion filed with the Court. All other conditions of supervised release as previously imposed by the Court shall remain in full force and effect. The U.S. Probation Office is instructed to report to the Court any violation of the terms of home confinement, and the Court advises that it is highly likely to order Vence-Small's re-imprisonment in the event of any material violation of the home detention conditions of confinement.

It is so ordered.

Dated at New Haven this 21st day of May 2020.

/s/ *Jeffrey Alker Meyer*

Jeffrey Alker Meyer
United States District Judge